

1 What is claimed:

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3 1. A tool for applying a sheet material to a surface of
4 a vehicle, comprising:

5 - a locating assembly for locating the tool with
6 respect to the vehicle, said locating assembly
7 including a support frame and translation assembly
8 for allowing relative movement between the vehicle
9 and the tool; and

10 - an applicator for applying the sheet material to
11 the surface, said applicator being supported by
12 the support frame.

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14 2. The tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the
15 applicator comprises a spindle and a central core,
16 the roll of sheet material formed around the central
17 core.

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19 3. The tool as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the support
20 frame comprises a spar oriented along a first axis,
21 the spar being suspended above the structure by the
22 translation assembly.

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24 4. The tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the spindle
25 is attached to the spar in a perpendicular
26 arrangement.

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28 5. The tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the first
29 axis is oriented perpendicularly to the surface, and
30 the spindle is oriented parallel to the surface.

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32 6. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein two
33 applicators are provided, one at each opposing end
34 of the support frame.

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2 7. The tool as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the spindle
3 is rotatable with respect to the support frame.

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5 8. The tool as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the spindle
6 is provided with a clutch mechanism such that
7 rotation of the spindle occurs at a predetermined
8 torque.

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10 9. The tool as claimed in any of Claims 2, wherein the
11 spindle is provided with a pair of buffers,
12 positioned at either side of the roll of sheet
13 material.

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15 10. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the
16 translation assembly comprises one or more wheels.

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18 11. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising
19 an auxiliary urging assembly adapted to effect
20 releasable attachment of the sheet material to the
21 surface.

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23 12. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sheet
24 material is an advertising display panel.

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26 13. A tool for applying a sheet material to a surface of
27 a structure, the tool comprising:

28 - a locating assembly for locating the tool with
29 respect to the structure, said locating assembly
30 including a support frame and a translation
31 assembly for allowing relative movement between
32 the structure and the tool; and

- an applicator for applying the sheet material to the surface, said applicator being supported by the support frame.

14. A method for applying a sheet material to a surface of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- locating a tool with respect to the vehicle, said tool comprising a support frame, a translation assembly, and an applicator supported by the support frame;
- removably attaching first portion of the sheet material onto the surface of the vehicle; and
- translating the tool with respect to the structure such that the applicator moves in a direction substantially parallel to the surface, thereby juxtaposing successive portions of the sheet material with the surface.

15. The method as claimed in Claim 14, comprising the additional step of forming the sheet material into a roll on a central core prior to the removable attachment of the first portion of sheet material.

16. A method for applying a sheet material to a surface of a structure, comprising the steps of:

- locating a tool with respect to the structure, said tool comprising a support frame, a translation assembly, and an applicator supported by the support frame;
- removably attaching first portion of the sheet material onto the surface of the structure; and
- translating the tool with respect to the structure such that the applicator moves in a direction substantially parallel to the surface, thereby

1 juxtaposing successive portions of the sheet
2 material with the surface.